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MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
83rd session
Agenda item 6

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LRIT-RELATED MATTERS

Comments on the outcome of COMSAR 11 and MSC/ISWG/LRIT 2

Submitted by Canada

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides information on Canadian views with regard to various LRIT-related issues in response to questions put to SOLAS Contracting Governments by COMSAR 11 and the MSC/ISWG/LRIT 2
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 8
<i>Related documents:</i>	COMSAR 11/18, paragraphs 14.36 and 14.37; MSC 83/6/2, paragraph 15

Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.10.5 of the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.1) and comments on document MSC 83/6/2.

Background

2 COMSAR 11 urged SOLAS Contracting Governments (Contracting Governments) to submit their views on a number of LRIT-related issues for consideration by the MSC/ISWG/LRIT 2. In particular, Contracting Governments were requested to provide the approximate volume of LRIT information packages that they were likely to request in a given period and to indicate whether they would be establishing or using National LRIT Data Centres (NDCs), Regional LRIT Data Centres (RDCs) or Co-operative LRIT Data Centres (CDCs). The MSC/ISWG/LRIT 2 agreed, *inter alia*, that each Contracting Government should provide to the Committee its firm and definite intentions with respect to the aforesaid issues and concluded that without such information the Committee would be unable to take any decisions in connection with the financial aspects which have a bearing on the establishment of the LRIT system.

Information

3 Based on information from various data sources, it is estimated that Canada will be tracking 1,000 ships on any given day.

4 As identified in SOLAS regulation V/19-1.8.1, Contracting Governments shall be able to receive LRIT information about ships, for security and other purposes. Based on the Performance standards and functional requirements for the long-range identification and tracking of ships (the Performance Standards), one transmission would be made every six hours, or four times a day, 365 days a year. Based on Canadian estimates this would equal a total of about 1,460,000 transmissions per year (1,000 ships x 4 transmissions per day x 365 days). Canada recognizes that the Performance Standards permit a higher frequency of polling if required and as appropriate.

5 The overall cost of the LRIT system will be closely linked to the volume of data, that is, the number of individual communications. An indication from all Contracting Governments with respect to their commitment to receive the regular four position reports per day would be valuable input into the development of a costing and billing framework. The more data the Contracting Governments request, the greater will be the financial viability of the system; thus helping ensure its successful development and sustainability.

6 Canada recognizes that costs of the LRIT system are yet to be finalized, but is comfortable with estimated communications costs of approximately USD 0.25 per transmission. Based on requirements and benefits of LRIT information, Canada has determined a requirement for reports from the approximately 60 ships entitled to fly its flag and from the approximately 140 ships intending to enter its ports, every six hours, and from the approximately 800 ships navigating within 1,000 nautical miles off its coasts at least every 12 hours, resulting in an estimated 876,000 reports per year. Based on an estimated cost of CAD 0.27 (USD 0.25) per transmission, the estimated annual cost of LRIT information for Canada is therefore CAD 236,500 (USD 219,000). This cost is the total for all LRIT transmissions Canada estimates it will receive both from foreign flagged ships and from ships entitled to fly its flag.

7 With respect to the second question raised by COMSAR 11 and MSC/ISWG/LRIT 2, Canada intends to develop and implement a National LRIT Data Centre.

Action requested of the Committee

8 The Committee is invited to note the information provided and to decide as appropriate.